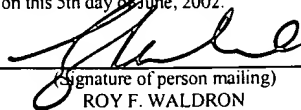


Patent Application
Attorney Docket No. PC9978A

#8B

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(Typed or printed name of person)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: F. Ito et al.

Examiner: B. Kifle

APPLICATION NO.: 09/753,954

Group Art Unit: 1624

FILING DATE: January 3, 2001

TITLE: BENZIMIDAZOLE COMPOUNDS AS
ORL1-RECEPTOR AGONISTS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2001, a response to which was due March 5, 2002. Applicants have submitted herewith a Petition for Extension of Time to extend the period for response by three months up to and including June 5, 2002 and paid the requisite fee (\$ 920.00). Accordingly, this response is timely.

Applicants request entry of the following amendments. Marked up versions of the amendments to the application are found in the Appendix attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 7-8. Add new claim 11.

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9. (Amended) A method of treating a disorder or condition, or anesthetizing a mammal, the treatment and anesthetization of which can be effected or facilitated by activating ORL1-receptor in a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (Amended) A method for treating a disorder or condition in a mammal, where the disorder or condition is selected from the group consisting of neuropathic pain, inflammatory diseases, inflammation-related hyperalgesia, eating disorder, arterial blood pressure disorders, tolerance to narcotic analgesics, dependence on narcotic analgesics, anxiety, stress disorders, psychic trauma, schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease, chorea, depressant, Alzheimer's disease,

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